

The Newport Mercury.

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPT. 10, 1859.

MR. COBBEN returns to England after an absence of many months in this country. In the meantime, he was elected a member of Parliament for the borough of Rochdale, and was offered a place in the Palmerston Cabinet. He was happy to accept the representation of the borough, to which he was elected without opposition; but declined to be the head of the board of trade, because he had differed for many years from Palmerston in his views received in America.

He considers his own election the more honorable, because it was not achieved by the violence and corruption which prevailed in other instances. He charges the House of Commons with not being very desirous of putting an end to these evil practices. He maintains that commissions of enquiry are futile. And he insists upon the necessity of a law which will make the act of bribery or corruption a criminal proceeding, so that the Attorney General could prosecute any person guilty of such acts. Besides this, and as some guard against many evils in English elections, he urges that Parliament should allow "the experiment of the ballot."

According to Mr. COBBEN's description of the use made of the elective franchise there, the popular choice of the House of Commons upon the other branches of the government, is merely a drain upon their purses. And we may see in this the source of that contempt of the people, which those in power above them are allowed, by the law and the constitution of the British Empire, to exercise at elections. And we might ask, what hope can there be that a people, so governed and so exposed to political degradation, will ever rise to that moral and social elevation, which is indispensable to maintain the rights of a popular government, or of the popular branch of the British constitution? The only hope is, that they have gained ground, and that circumstance is a reason to hope they may gain more. And if not so fast to go forward, they are as unwilling to go backward, as any other nation. The ground which is gained, is therefore more secure.

Though aware that what is fit for one country may not be equally so for the other, yet Mr. COBBEN adduces testimony from the United States to show, that bribery or corruption is not everywhere the general practice in popular elections. He reads an extract of a letter to him containing these lines:—"I have been for fifty years connected with political and party movements in Philadelphia, and I never knew a vote bought or sold." And there is no end to the amount of such testimony which might be given in our cities and States. But it is not in the great cities or the small States, where we ought to look for a fair sample of the whole country. They are both more exposed to the degrading influences which delude the purity of popular sentiment. Great cities especially are not a fair exponent of the power of self-government in the country. They are prominent objects in the eye of a traveler, and are apt to be mistaken, by our own citizens, as well as visitors from abroad, as points characteristic of the best part of the population.

But the green difficulty of avoiding such scenes of violence and corruption as were most revolting in the last election of members of Parliament, does not differ than the lack of a criminal protection of a vote by ballot. During that panic and struggle of nations, shortly before the same day, appears to have been as well known as the price of stocks in London. And why was this? Because the dignities are all above the people, and the electors are regarded as articles of traffic. This is the foundation of the difficulty. Whereas, there are no dignities in our States, or in the union of the States, to look down upon the rank of independent citizens. The inherent dignity is in the people; and no extraordinary power in the persons administering the government. The prestige of office is only of a representative character.—For the citizens to reverence the government, is only to pay due respect to a power of which he is himself one of the most important elements. Their victories were gained by their resolution and the sacrifice of many lives—for lack of better weapons. But they have diffused through the population they have defended, the greatest enthusiasm, and courage, and devotion to the cause.

NORTHERN LIGHTS.—as they generally appear, are strange lights to the present age. But there are three forms assumed by these illuminations, *beams, arches, and flashes.* Beams of light shooting up from the horizon in the North, have often been noticed by every observer in this country. Arches appear with longer intervals.—And there may be many who had read of such lights, but few perhaps had ever before seen such flashes of auroral light as were continued for hours on Friday evening of last week. They must have been startling sights to many. Broad coruscations rushed upward to the zenith, like leaping sheets of flame at a great conflagration.

The occasional rather than periodical appearance of these wonders, together with the imperfect accounts which have been kept of their recurrence, has contributed to the superstition in regard to them, which has prevailed from early times. They have generally been looked upon the unphilosophical as the forerunners of wars or other calamities.

Fierce fiery warriors fight upon the clouds, In ranks and squadrons, and right form of war. But the true theory seems to be, that they are meteoric, and connected with electricity and magnetism; and they can be imitated in a glass tube, on a small scale, by passing the electric fluid through rarefied air.

Though the amount of philosophical papers upon the subject of the Aurora Lights, has been very great, yet account of their frequent appearance and the want of opportunity for scientific observations, some very inaccurate conjectures have been formed as to their nature and extent. Some have given them a marvellous elevation.—But there is no reason to suppose that they rise above the atmosphere of the earth. It is in the upper regions of the air only where that combination of temperature and rarity is found, which is favorable to the production of such phenomena. And one fact is well established, that they uniformly appear to arise from the polar regions, and from the South as well as from the North pole.

ABOUT two years ago on the death of Mr. WILLIAM WILBROOK, two wills were presented for Probate, one by Mr. WILLIAM GRAY and one by Mr. LALON BURDICK. The Judge of Probate (Mr. LALON) after thoroughly investigating the matter decided that the will presented by Mr. GRAY should be acknowledged, as that presented by Mr. WILBROOK when he was not in the enjoyment of a sound mind. Mr. BURDICK appealed to the Supreme Court where a full hearing has been had, and on Friday of last week, the case was submitted to the jury, who after a short absence from the court room, returned a verdict in favor of the will presented by Mr. GRAY.

WE learn that JOSEPH S. TILLINGHAST, Esq., of New Bedford, will deliver an annual address to the Sabbath School in the Central Baptist Church on Clarke street to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock.

AQUINNECK ENGINE COMPANY, No. 3, will be seen by an advertisement in another column have chartered the steamer *Canonicus* for a grand excursion to Rocky Point. The Aquinnecks are a spirited set of men and when they attempt to do a thing, never go half-way, which we think was fairly demonstrated at the time of the Re-Union, and as this is connected by "honor" to that affair, we implore our readers that every effort will be made by the members to make the excursion a success.

THE OLD FRANKLIN PRESS.

EVERYBODY that has visited Newport during the last century, has seen or heard of the old Printing Press at which BENJAMIN FRANKLIN worked in Boston on the *New England Courant*, and in 1720, when fourteen years of age and which was subsequently used by JAMES and which was subsequently used by JAMES on the *Newport Mercury*, in this city where the Press has remained until the present day, and although we gave a brief history of it in our issue of June 12, 1858, (our one hundredth anniversary) we may be pardoned—as the Press has lately changed its ownership and is on its way to becoming a press is what is known as the "Ramble Press," a rough, clumsy affair, of English construction, built in London about the year 1650, as nearly as can be ascertained, and shipped thence to Boston in 1717. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN says in vol. 1 of his Life, on page 16:

"From my infancy I was passionately fond of reading, and all the money that came into my hands, was laid out in the purchasing of books."

Signed, MILLER F. WICKHAM,
PHILIP LEWIS,
JOHN BOYD."

The same paper says that "these slaves were landed, and no mistake."

As this statement has a tendency to cast unjust reflections on the present generation of Rhode Islanders, and having at command the old files of the *Mercury*,—we have availed ourselves of the use of so faithful a record of past events, in order to ascertain the correct date, that should have been a part of the contract as published above, and have, no doubt, been successful.

We find in the Custom House Reports, of this port, cleared March 3d, 1804, brig *Favorite*, WICKHAM, Cape Verde Islands, which is doubtless the vessel and the Captain, and probably the voyage on which this contract was made and performed with the dates manufactured for present use; so that this cargo of slaves was landed at least 55 years ago.

There are other facts which tend to prove this to have been an old contract revamped. The WICKHAM family furnished several shipmasters, and by referring to the records of the Marine Society we find that BENJAMIN WICKHAM became a member of the Society Dec. 12, 1752; THOMAS WICKHAM became a member Oct. 5th, 1762; and SAMUEL WICKHAM joined Sept. 3d, 1785. This family has become entirely extinct, and in the present day there is not probably a Captain WICKHAM or a brig Favorite hailing from the State of Rhode Island.

ITALY appears still to be in a fair way of entering upon that career of peaceful self-reform which promises to be most permanent. It was fortunate that the oppressed people, that they have been able to appropriate their condition without meekness. And undoubtedly they have more sympathy from this side of the ocean for the encouragement of their cause, than could readily be elicited in favor of the liberation of any other nationality. But more interest has been felt in Italian freedom, than our people have found means to signify in a suitable manner. Now it is gratifying to know, that VENICE ENCLAVE has received some tangible tokens of approbation in this country for the stand he maintained in support of constitutional liberty. A sword in the city of New York of a quality worthy of such a purpose, and another in California, now committed with a sum of gold, are expressions of a sentiment in these distant regions, which may afford the *Sardinian King* some proof of the esteem he has gained.

But what of GAMBALDO, who may now be said to occupy the most important position of any military character of the present times. With all our admiration of his courage, we are compelled to say, he is to be found in this country.

The basic difficulties, whatever they may be, of the same day, appear to have been as well known as the price of stocks in London. And why was this? Because the dignities are all above the people, and the electors are regarded as articles of traffic. This is the foundation of the difficulty. Whereas, there are no dignities in our States, or in the union of the States, to look down upon the rank of independent citizens. The inherent dignity is in the people; and no extraordinary power in the persons administering the government. The prestige of office is only of a representative character.—For the citizens to reverence the government, is only to pay due respect to a power of which he is himself one of the most important elements. Their victories were gained by their resolution and the sacrifice of many lives—for lack of better weapons. But they have diffused through the population they have defended, the greatest enthusiasm, and courage, and devotion to the cause.

NARRAGANSETT LIGHTS, as they generally appear, are strange lights to the present age. But there are three forms assumed by these illuminations, *beams, arches, and flashes.* Beams of light shooting up from the horizon in the North, have often been noticed by every observer in this country. Arches appear with longer intervals.—And there may be many who had read of such lights, but few perhaps had ever before seen such flashes of auroral light as were continued for hours on Friday evening of last week. They must have been startling sights to many. Broad coruscations rushed upward to the zenith, like leaping sheets of flame at a great conflagration.

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LEGAL NOTICES.

Court of Probate, Newport, Aug. 22, 1859.

O LIVER READ, Administrator presents his final account on the estate of

WILLIAM GLENNON,

late of Newport, deceased, for alimony, which said account contains a credit for proceeds of sale of the real estate of said deceased, sold by the administrator. The same is received and is referred to Monday the 12th day of September next, at 10 o'clock, a. m., at the Council Chamber, in the City Hall, in Newport for consideration, and it is ordered that notice thereof be published for fourteen days, once a week, in the *Newport Mercury*, and in *Newspaper*, deceased, makes application in writing for Lewis L. Simmons or some other suitable person, to be appointed administrator on the estate of her late husband, she declining to administer, and the same is received and is referred to Monday the 12th day of September next, at 10 o'clock, a. m., at the Council Chamber, in the City Hall, in Newport for consideration, and it is ordered that notice thereof be published for fourteen days, once a week, in the *Newport Mercury*.

Aug 27 B. B. HOWLAND, Prob. Ct.

Court of Probate City of Newport, Aug. 22, 1859.

BENJAMIN FISH, executor, presents his ac-

coun on the estate of

RACHEL FISH,

late of Newport, single and deceased, for alimony, and the same is received and is referred to Monday, the 12th day of September next, at 10 o'clock, a. m., at the Council Chamber, in the City Hall, in Newport for consideration, and it is ordered that notice thereof be published for fourteen days, once a week, in the *Newport Mercury*.

Aug 27 B. B. HOWLAND, Prob. Ct.

Court of Probate City of Newport, Aug. 22, 1859.

WILLIAM FISH, executor, presents his ac-

coun on the estate of

JOHN WILBOUR,

late of Newport, single and deceased, having given birth to the will directs, hereby requests all persons having claims against said estate to present them, and those indebted to make immediate payment to

WILLIAM WILBOUR,

Administrator.

Estate of Laura Sherman.

Administrators' Sale of Real Estate.

Will be sold at Public Auction, on WEDNES-

DAY, the 3d day of October next, at 12 o'clock M., on the premises, by virtue of a decree of the Court of Probate of the city of Newport.

A LL THE RIGHT, title and interest which

Laura Sherman, late of Newport, formerly of John R. Sherman, shd. be bounded Easterly on Thames street, Northwesterly on a passage way, Westerly on the Harbor, and Southerly by Sayer's land and wharf, for the purpose of paying the debts of said deceased, and incidental expenses, &c.

Conditions made known at the time and place of sale, JOHN D. NORTHAM, Administrator.

Sept. 3, 1859—4w.

WISTAR'S BALM OF WILD CHEESE.

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THE BEST REMEDY

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PREPARED BY DR. J. C. AYER & CO.

LOWELL, MASS.

Price, \$1 per Bottle; Six Bottles for 25.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral,

has so small such a remedy for the cure of every variety of Throat and Lung Complaint, that its entire success, for or against, has never been denied.

As it has long been in constant use throughout this section, we do not see more than to assure the people its quality is kept up to the best cover, and that it may be relied on to do its work.

There are no preparations, but little of the virtue of this compound is ever found to do

any thing else.

THE CURE OF

Inflammation, Diseases, Inflammation, Inflammation, Diseases, Inflammation, Diseases, Other Diseases, Diseases and Skin Diseases, Skin Diseases, Diseases, Tissues and Tissues, and Skin Diseases, Skin Diseases, Wounds, Glands, Nervousness, as a Disease, and for Purifying the Blood.

They are unprepared, so that the most sensible can take them pleasantly, and they are the best in the world for all the purposes of a Physician.

Price 25 cents per Box; Five Boxes for \$1.00.

Great numbers of Clergymen, Physicians, Statesmen, Jurists, Physicians, and others have lost their money to verify the unparalleled usefulness of these remedies, but our care will not permit the insertion of them. The Agents below named furnish gratis to any one who may apply for them.

RECOMMENDED.—For Coughs, Colds, and Inflammations.

FOR WHOPPING-COUGH, GROUP, AND ASTHMA.

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A SURE CURE

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FOR BRONCHITIS AND SORE THROAT.

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For all Affections of the Throat and Lungs.

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